

Our Work Now and for Eternity

From the Series

“The Sanctuary: God’s Plan for Your Lives”

Guiding Passage: **Exodus 25:8–9 (NASB95)** — **8** “Let them *construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them.* **9** “According to *all that I am going to show you*, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it.

Scripture Reading: **1 Peter 2:5, 9 (NASB95)** — **5** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ . . . **9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Jesus Is the Sanctuary

John 2:19–21 (NASB95) — **19** Jesus answered them, “*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*” **20** The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” **21** But *He was speaking of the temple of His body.*

The Church Is Also the Temple

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NASB95) — **27** *Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.*

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NASB95) — **16** Do you not know that *you are a temple of God* and that *the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

New Testament Construction

Ephesians 2:19–22 (NASB95) — **19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but *you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,* **20** *having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,* **21** in whom *the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,* **22** in whom *you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*

Christology and Ecclesiology

Jesus is the Door – He has given us the keys

Jesus is the Altar that Sanctifies – We must bear our cross

Jesus is the Lamb – We are His lambs

Jesus was the Baptizer – Commissions us to baptize

Jesus is our Food and Drink – Rivers of Living Water flow

Jesus is the Light – We are the light

Jesus is the Incense – We are His fragrance

Jesus is the Veil – We have access to the Holy of Holies
Jesus is the Mercy Seat – We have passed from death to life.
Jesus is our High Priest – We are Priests

Israel's Calling

Exodus 19:5–6 (NASB95) — **5** ‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; **6** and *you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

The Church's Calling

Revelation 5:9–10 (NASB95) — **9** And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and *purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.* **10** “*You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God;* and they will reign upon the earth.”

Israel Fell Short of Her Calling

Deuteronomy 21:5 (NASB95) — **5** “Then *the priests, the sons of Levi,* shall come near, for *the Lord your God has chosen them to serve Him and to bless in the name of the Lord;* and every dispute and every assault shall be settled by them.

How Israel Fell Short of Her Calling

Exodus 32:19 (NASB95) — **19** It came about, as soon as Moses came near the camp, that *he saw the calf and the dancing;* and Moses' anger burned, and he threw the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain.

Exodus 32:31 (NASB95) — **31** Then Moses returned to the Lord, and said, “*Alas, this people has committed a great sin, and they have made a god of gold for themselves.*”

Levites Chosen as Priests

Exodus 32:28–29 (NASB95) — **28** So *the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed,* and about three thousand men of the people fell that day. **29** Then Moses said, “*Dedicate yourselves today to the Lord—for every man has been against his son and against his brother—in order that He may bestow a blessing upon you today.*”

Levites Instead of Firstborn

Numbers 3:12–13 (NASB95) — **12** “Now, *behold, I have taken the Levites from among the sons of Israel instead of every firstborn,* the first issue of the womb among the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine. **13** “For *all the firstborn are Mine;* on the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, from man to beast. They shall be Mine; I am the Lord.”

Israel Pays for Fewer Priests

Numbers 3:45–47 (NASB95) — **45** “Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the sons of Israel and the cattle of the Levites. And the Levites shall be Mine; I am the Lord. **46** *“For the ransom of the 273 of the firstborn of the sons of Israel who are in excess beyond the Levites,* **47** *you shall take five shekels apiece, per head;* you shall take them in terms of the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs),

We Are Called to be Priests

1 Peter 2:5 (NASB95) — **5** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house *for a holy priesthood*, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 (NASB95) — **9** But you are a chosen race, *a royal priesthood*, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

God Is Generous with His Spirit

Numbers 11:24–26 (NASB95) — **24** So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord. Also, he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people, and stationed them around the tent. **25** Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him; *and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed Him upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied.* But they did not do it again. **26** But *two men had remained in the camp;* the name of one was Eldad and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them (now they were among those who had been registered, but had not gone out to the tent), *and they prophesied in the camp.*

Matthew 18:20 (NASB95) — **20** “For *where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there* in their midst.”

Luke 11:13 (NASB95) — **13** “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, *how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?*”

Preparation for Priestly Ministry

Exodus 29:20 (NASB95) — **20** “You shall slaughter the ram, *and take some of its blood and put it on the lobe of Aaron’s right ear and on the lobes of his sons’ right ears and on the thumbs of their right hands and on the big toes of their right feet,* and sprinkle the rest of the blood around on the altar.

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Our Work as Priests

Romans 15:16 (NASB95) — **16** *to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

We Carry the Ark of the Covenant

2 Corinthians 3:2–3 (NASB95) — **2** *You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men;* **3** being manifested that *you are a letter of Christ*, cared for by us, *written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*

An Extension of the Mercy Seat

John 20:23 (NASB95) — **23** *“If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.”*

Ministry of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:18 (NASB95) — **18** Now all these things are from God, *who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,*

Sin Reaches to the Third and Fourth . . .

Exodus 20:5–6 (NASB95) — **5** “You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, *visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,* **6** but *showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

God’s Love to the 1,000th Generation

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NASB95) — **9** “Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, *the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*

Moses Changed in the Presence of God

Exodus 34:29 (NASB95) — **29** . . . *Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.*

2 Corinthians 3:7 (NASB95) — **7** But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, *so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face,* fading as it was,

We Are Changed in God's Presence

2 Corinthians 3:17–18 (NASB95) — **17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. **18** But *we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

The Work Continues Throughout Eternity

Revelation 22:3–4 (NASB95) — **3** *There will no longer be any curse;* and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and *His bond-servants will serve Him; 4 they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.*

Why Israel Fell Short of Her Calling

Exodus 20:18–21 (NASB95) — **18** All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; *and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance.* **19** Then they said to Moses, “*Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die.*” **20** Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for *God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.*” **21** So *the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.*

God Has Called Us Now and for Eternity

Revelation 20:6 (NASB95) — **6** Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but *they will be priests of God and of Christ* and will reign with Him for a thousand years.